(b) and (c) India has achieved a compound rate of growth of about 12.5 per cent in foreign toprist traffic to the country since 1951 excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh. Tourism has been recognised as an important economic activity and given the recognition of an Industry only recently in India. Plan allocation for the development of this sector has also been relatively negligible over successive Plan periods.

(d) Tourism promotion is a continuous process and all changes that are taking place in the pattern of tourism are kept in view while planning for tourism development in the country. A number of schemes are also being taken up for infrastructural development and marketing including development of beach resorts, improvement facilities for sking, mountaineering, trekking and adventure tourism, augmentation of transport facilities, provision of way-side facilities on highways, development of tourist facilities along travel circuit vigorous publicity campaigns with emphasis on consumer advertising, stepping up of public relations with overseas media agencies, etc. In addition a number of incentives have been announced for attracting private investment in tourism related actvities.

Introduction of New Trains

2315. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new eight trains have been introduced since 1st November, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 975/976 Bangalore-Guwahati Weekly Express, 879/980 Tirupati-Howrah Express daily, 593/954 Nanded-Manmad Express daily, 21/22 Howrah-Bhubaneswar Express daily, 485/486 Karjat-Khopoli Passenger daily, 363/364 Palway-New Delhi Shuttle daily, 455/456 Kakinada-Visakhapatnam Passenger daily, 355/356 Secunderabad- Miryalaguda Passenger daily.

High Power Committee to Monitor Implementation of the recommendations of Tourism

2316. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high power committee has been set up by Government to monitor the problems in implementation of recommendation of the various committees on Tourism; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) A Committee for monitoring the progress of implementation of various recommendations of the National Committee on Tourism has been set up by the Government on 28th September, 1988 with the following composition:

1. Shri Mohammad Yunus--Chairman
2. Shri S. K. Misra Member
3. Shri G. K. Khanna Member
4. Shri Cyrus Guzder Member
5. Shri P. M. A. Hakeem Member

Reopening of Chinese consulates General Offices at Calcutta

2317. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has sought for permission from India recently to reopen its Consulates General Office at Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether such permission has been granted; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF EXERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) A proposal exists for the re-establishment of Consulates General by India and China in each other's countries. The mater has been under discussion betwen the two Governments.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Entry Tax Imposed by Nepal on Indian Vehicles

2318. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an entry tax has been imposed on Indian vehicles entering Nepal while there is no such tax on th entry of Nepalese vehicles in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that apart from the national entry tax, every Nagar Panchayat in Nepal charges separate entry tax on Indian vehicles and that there is no such entry tax on Nepalese vehicles in Indian cities;

(c) whether the Nagar Panchayat entry tax in Nepal is discriminatory and the amount of tax charged from Indian vehicles is many times more than what is charged from Nepalese vehicles; and

(d) if the answer to parts (a) to (c) above in the affrmative whether Government propose to take up this matter with the Government of Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K NATWAR SINGH): (a) Nepalese customs duty is levied on Indian motor vehicles entering Nepal for visits over seven days. Duty is leviable on buses and mini buses after five days of entry into Nepal. Goods vehicles attract duty after 48 hours of entry into Nepal. Nepalese vehicles can enter India with entry permits issued by the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu against bank guarantees of their re-import into Nepal.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have no information to indicate this.

(d) The need for reciprocity in the tax regime for vehicles of one country entering the other has been impressed on the Government of Nepal.

Views of Sri Lankan Prime Minister on Indo-Sri Lankan Accord

2319. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UNP Presidential candidate in Sri Lanka and presently the Prime Minister of that country, has said that if he is elected President, he would like to replace the Indo-Sri Lanka accord with a treaty of peace and friendship; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have noted this statement.

Withholding of M. Phil. (Hindi) results by the Delhi University

2320. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what compensation is sought to be given to the candidates affected by withholding of result of M. Phil (Hindi Examination held in April, 1987, South Campus, Delhi candidates for the loss of two academic years for no fault of theirs; and